From: Sue
To: City Clerks Office
Subject: EXTERNAL: In support of panhandling ordinance
Date: Friday, May 8, 2026 3:18:13 AM

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Dear Mayor Robin Christiansen And Dover City Council members.

I am writing to voice my support for the panhandling ordinance that is being brought back for a second vote. I neglected to voice my opinion before, and therefore feel as responsible as others should for not speaking up when that chance was offered before. My support for this ordinance comes from the position of someone who spends countless hours caring for the homeless of Dover. I don't like the look that they give our city. I don't believe they want food or necessities because I know that Help is provided in a handful of places in Dover ours being one of them. I believe most of these folks are feeding their addiction plain and simple. I think it's very dangerous. I believe many of them are being trafficked to perform this service of standing with a sign, they turn that money over to someone who in turn assures them a hotel room to share and their drug of choice for the night. It's a racket and we are not only enabling we are now encouraging??? I don't object to folks using their rights to stand on a sidewalk as free as anyone and to speak to anyone as free as the rest of us even to the point of asking for things as long as they aren't aggressive and don't get within the legal 3 feet of space and are in a safe environment, but I do not believe being in the medium strip of the highways is a safe environment and I don't believe we should create a trafficking environment that goes on right in the open under our noses. The idea that they are doing this for food and or life sustaining supplies is only true for a very small percentage. There is food all around, offered to them mostly through our program but also hopes and dreams, code purple and every church has a Food Bank. There's plenty of clothes and toiletries and other supplies that they can access. Most of them are there for one reason and one reason only leaving them vulnerable to the vultures who will traffic them just like any other kind of trafficking. they are desperate, and they are put in those spots to make somebody else money and they in turn get what they need to feed that demon. I don't think we should enable this and I don't think it's helpful to allow them to live this way. Maybe some time should be spent investigating just what kind of trafficking of desperate zombies we have going on around here. Some of These folks look as if they have no thought in their minds but how to get that next hit. I think there are other options that we can look at as far as alternative solutions to aid the homeless and addicted. We need to have reasonable alternatives to offer them like places to go they feel comfortable and safe (a shelter does not fit that description very often), places for help for their challenge, real places to live, somewhere to get treatment and counseling and services that last more than 27 days to provide actual tangible hope for recovery. We need to have those opportunities to offer for a carrot and for a stick maybe the alderman's court. But the bottom line is, I am writing in support of the ordinance that will address the panhandlers that are in the mediums that are in danger, are in many cases being trafficked and could cause danger to others. I run a homeless program. I certainly have nothing against homeless people and spend every day providing them the basic daily needs along with other local service providers.

Allowing this behavior is no answer.

Please be sure this email is forwarded to all council persons and the mayor and is counted as support FOR the ordinance. It sure seems with almost 600 petition signatures in support of the ordinance and no one sitting in their council seat with more than 200 votes, a whole lot of people appear to not be represented appropriately by their council person.

Thank you for forwarding this message as appropriate.

Sue Harris
302-423-6049

Sent from my iPhone